W. T. GRANT COMPANY Annual Report 1938

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William T. Grant, Chairman

John G. Byler Karl D. Gardner

Joseph W. Chinn, Jr. John M. Hancock

Howland S. Davis James L. O'Neill

Fred H. Edgecomb Richard W. Story

Clayton E. Freeman William B. Warner

OFFICERS

Executive Office

1441 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

Transfer Agent

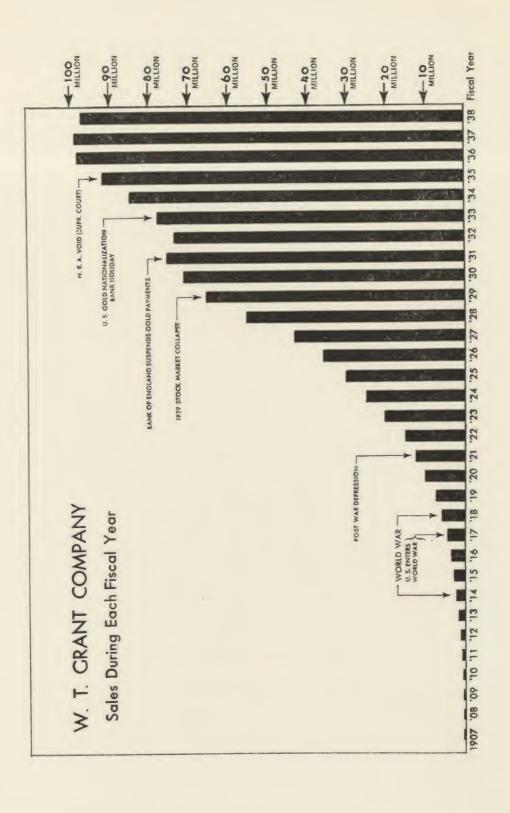
Registrar

Guaranty Trust Company of New York

Bankers Trust Company
New York, N. Y.

ANNUAL REPORT 1938 FISCAL YEAR

To be submitted to the Annual Meeting of Stockholders
to be held at 1441 Broadway, New York, N. Y., on
April 18, 1939.



Department Stores
Fourteen Forty-One Broadway
New York

March 20, 1939.

To the Stockholders:

During 1938, your company showed sales of \$97,516,419 and net earnings of \$2,766,424.

SALES

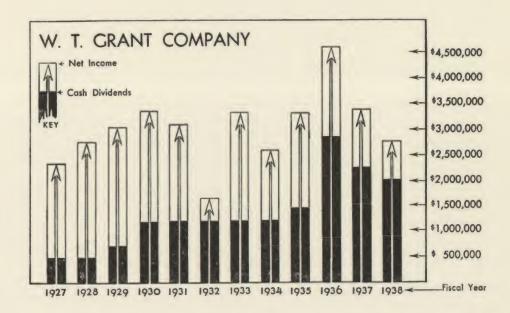
Sales of \$97,516,419 showed a decrease of \$1,543,501 or 1.6% under the preceding year. An analysis of the decrease in sales appears below:

	Fiscal Year 1938	Fiscal Year 1937	Change %
Sales for 477 stores open during entire year 1937*	\$95,029,880	\$98,465,629	3.5
Sales for 5 new stores opened during 1937	1,169,912	594,291	96.9
Sales for 14 new stores opened during 1938	1,316,627		
Total Sales	\$97,516,419	\$99,059,920	1.6
*Including 2 stores permanently closed in 1937 and	5 stores permanently	closed in 1938.	

During the first half of the year general business conditions were poor and sales in identical stores showed a decline of 8.7% from the same period of the previous year. In the last half of the year, conditions improved and identical stores showed an increase in sales of 1.3%.

EARNINGS AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

Net earnings of \$2,766,424 were equal to \$2.03 per share on the 1,189,354 shares of common stock outstanding, after deducting the full year's dividend on the preferred stock. Earnings in the previous year were \$3,401,725, equal to \$2.78 per share



on the common stock after deducting the initial dividend paid on January 1, 1938 on the preferred stock. During the 1938 fiscal year, dividends on the common stock of 35c a share were paid on April 1, July 1, October 1 and January 1 and a final dividend of 25c a share was declared, payable February 14, 1939, out of the earnings for the 1938 fiscal year.

Taxes paid or accrued during the year totaled \$2,847,194 as compared with taxes of \$2,753,165 in the previous year. In addition sales taxes and social security taxes amounting to \$677,757 were collected and paid during 1938.

The decline in earnings was due principally to the decrease in sales volume experienced during the early months of the year and to markdowns taken at the end of the first six months when sales were lower than had been anticipated. In the last half of the year, both sales and earnings exceeded the corresponding months of the previous year. Below is an analysis of earnings by six months' periods during the past two years:

First six months Last six months					1938 \$ 154,890 2,611,534	1937 \$1,394,976 2,006,749	Change \$1,240,086 decrease 604,785 increase
Т	otal f	for ye	ar		\$2,766,424	\$3,401,725	\$ 635,301 decrease

At the year end inventories were \$11,680,798 compared with \$10,990,658 in the previous year. During the greater part of the year inventories were less than on the corresponding date of the previous year, but due to improved conditions, increased shipments of merchandise were made to the stores in January in order to better prepare for the following season.

On January 31, 1939 the balance sheet showed current assets of \$22,109,066, including cash of \$9,992,925, as compared with current liabilities of \$3,796,240.

EXPANSION

During the year the company opened fourteen new stores and closed five stores. At the year end 489 stores were in operation. The stores closed were small in sales volume and generally unprofitable. The new stores and dates of opening are:

Hagerstown, Md.—February 17, 1938
Los Angeles, Calif.—March 19, 1938
Kingsport, Tenn.—June 3, 1938
Janesville, Wis.—June 29, 1938
Clarksburg, W. Va.—June 30, 1938
Green Bay, Wis.—July 8, 1938
Birmingham, Ala.—July 30, 1938
Wilkinsburg, Pa.—October 7, 1938
Kannapolis, N. C.—October 12, 1938
Buffalo, N. Y.—October 21, 1938
Bridgeton, N. J.—November 4, 1938
Port Arthur, Tex.—November 25, 1938
Winona, Minn.—December 1, 1938
Troy, N. Y.—December 9, 1938

In these new stores the company had the following capitalized investment at the year end:

Merchandise									\$	342,952
Furniture and	d Fixtures		•				•			292,908
Alterations a	and Improv	en e	nents							212,039
Advances to	Landlords	to	finance	im	prove	ments				163,619
									-	
	Total								\$1	.011.518

During the year fourteen stores were enlarged and eight were air conditioned.

Through its wholly owned subsidiary, W. T. Grant Realty Corporation, five properties were purchased during the year.

A moderate expansion is planned during 1939. Six locations are under lease for new stores to be opened and other new store leases are in negotiation. Additional stores will be enlarged and modernized.

LEGISLATION

During the past year, the President of your company took occasion to advise the stockholders of the threat to their investment in the company from the so-called "Patman Bill" which was introduced in the House of Representatives in Washington for the purpose of destroying chain store organizations through taxation. The publicity given this proposal has resulted in farmer, labor, real estate and consumer organizations going on record in oppositon to the destruction of mass distribution through taxation. We believe that the widespread discussion which has resulted from such proposals has been beneficial in educating the public to a better knowledge of the importance of mass distribution in the economic life of the country. While continued vigilance is necessary, we believe the trend of discriminatory taxation is diminishing.

General taxation continues to increase. In this report we have given a chart which compares taxes collected and paid in 1938 with 1928, just ten years before. We believe that the experience of your company in regard to taxation is shared by other business enterprises throughout the country.

ORGANIZATION

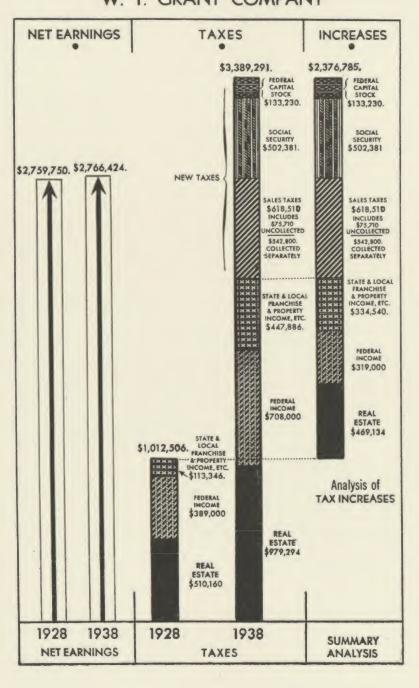
At present, the W. T. Grant Company (a Delaware Corporation) is a holding company which controls the stores and other operating assets through the ownership of the entire outstanding stock of the W. T. Grant Company (a Massachusetts Corporation). The matter of simplifying the capital structure so that the stockholders will own stock directly in the operating company, continues to be an objective of the management and directors.

We wish to acknowledge the spirit of loyalty and cooperation which has been shown by members of our organization during the past year.

WILLIAM T. GRANT

Chairman of the Board.

COMPARISON OF NET EARNINGS AND TAXES 1928 - 1938 W. T. CRANT COMPANY



W. T. GRAN

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CONSOLIDATED

January !

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 9,992,924.82	
Marketable securities (quoted market value \$56,925.00)	35,415.41	
Accounts receivable	399,927.96	
	11,680,798.10	\$22,109,066.29
OTHER ASSETS		
Cash surrender value of life insurance	\$ 1,198,436.50	
Advances to and security deposited with landlords-to be re-		
paid over a term of years	535,019.97	
Real estate mortgages receivable	316,758.41	
Employees notes and accounts receivable (partly secured) .	31,671.08	
Sundry accounts, notes, claims and investments; funds in closed		
banks and restricted balances (less reserve \$91,851.96)	8,466.81	
Deposit for purchase of property	3,500.00	2,093,852.77
STORE PROPERTIES, FIXTURES AND IMPROVEMENTS (At Cost)		
Land	\$ 5,427,158.40	
Buildings \$2,955,599.24		
Less reserve for depreciation 904,143.99	2,051,455.25	
Furniture and Fixtures \$6,741,730.41		
Less reserve for depreciation 3,687,009.96	3,054,720.45	
Alterations and improvements to leased properties (this amount		
is being amortized over a period not in excess of the term		
of the leases involved)	5,393,354.20	15,926,688.30
DEFERREDCHARGES		
Prepaid taxes and rents, prepaid insurance, supplies, etc		1,052,119.16
		\$41,181,726.52

COMPANY

Corporation)

Y COMPANIES

BALANCE SHEET

31, 1939

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	
Dividend payable—February 14, 1939	
Real estate mortgages payable on demand or maturing within	
one year	
Accrued accounts	
Provision for federal taxes on income—estimated 738,707.70	\$ 3,796,240.10
DEFERRED LIABILITIES	
Real estate mortgages payable 1940 to 1954 \$ 2,366,600.00	
Tenants deposits as security for leases 3,440.00	2,370,040.00
RESERVE	
For repainting stores	215,153.37
CAPITAL STOCK AND SURPLUS	
Capital stock: 5% Cumulative Preferred—par value \$20.00 per share, redeemable at \$22.00 per share: Authorized 400,000 shares; issued or to be issued— 350,138½ shares (including 1,280¼ shares in treasury)	
Common-par value \$10.00 per share: Author-	
ized 1,500,000 shares; issued or to be issued	
1,190,554 shares (including 1,200 shares in	
treasury)	
Earned surplus (including \$629,963.59 accumulated since forma-	
tion of Delaware Company in November, 1937) 15,929,588.05	34,800,293.05
	\$41,181,726.52

(A Delaware Corporation)

AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

For the Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 1939

SALES	\$97,516,418.92 92,554,683.21
OTHER DEDUCTIONS (Net)	\$ 4,961,735.71 106,248.41
DEDUCT:	\$ 4,855,487.30
Provision for depreciation and amortization of leasehold improvements	1,381,063.08
PROFIT BEFORE FEDERAL TAXES ON INCOME	\$ 3,474,424.22 708,000.00
NET PROFIT	\$ 2,766,424.22
CONSOLIDATED EARNED SURPLUS	
For the fiscal year ended January 31, 1939	
BALANCE—January 31, 1938	\$15,488,090.55
Net profit for year	2.766.424.22
	\$18.254.514.77
DEDUCT:	\$18,254,514.77
Cash dividends: On 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock—\$20.00 par value: Four quarterly dividends of 25c each, aggre-	\$18,254,514.77
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Cash dividends: On 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock—\$20.00 par value: Four quarterly dividends of 25c each, aggregating \$1.00 per share \$348,630.00 On Common Stock—\$10.00 par value: Four quarterly dividends of 35c each, or \$1.40 per share \$1,665,095.60 Final dividend for fiscal year ended January 31, 1939—25c per share, payable February	\$18,254,514.77
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CERTIFICATE OF AUDITORS

March 7, 1939

To the Board of Directors, W. T. Grant Company, New York, N. Y.

We have made an examination of the consolidated balance sheet of W. T. Grant Company (a Delaware Corporation) and its subsidiaries as at January 31, 1939, and of the consolidated statements of profit and loss and surplus of such corporations for the fiscal year ended at that date. In connection therewith, we examined or tested accounting records of the Company and of its subsidiaries and other supporting evidence; we have also made a general review of the accounting methods and of the operating and income accounts for the year, but we did not make a detailed audit of the transactions.

Cash on deposit was confirmed. Merchandise inventories, as taken and certified by the Company, valued at not in excess of cost or market, whichever is lower, were tested by us as to pricing and computations. The subsidiary W. T. Grant Company (Massachusetts Corporation) was guarantor of a note issued to a bank by Trustees of an Employees Stock Purchase Fund secured by 1,132 shares of 5% cumulative preferred stock and 5,346 shares of common stock of W. T. Grant Company (Delaware Corporation) the unpaid balance of which note amounted to \$27,384.09 at January 31, 1939. The unpaid balance of import letters of credit issued to W. T. Grant Company (Massachusetts Corporation) amounted to \$421,068.50 at that date.

In our opinion, based upon our examination and information submitted to us, the accompanying consolidated balance sheet and related consolidated statements of profit and loss and surplus fairly present, in accordance with accepted principles of accounting consistently maintained by the Companies during the year under review, the consolidated position of the Company and its subsidiaries at January 31, 1939, and the consolidated results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries for the fiscal year ended at that date.

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COMPARATIVE CONSOLIDATED INCOME ACCOUNTS

1934	\$85,069,612 80,765,419	4,304,193 7,258	4,311,451 145,189 1,153,180 396,880	\$ 2,616,202	\$17,146,092	19,762,294	1,195,355	\$18,505,746
1935	\$91,981,814 86,812,894	5,168,920	5,200,221 122,904 1,207,451 535,620	\$ 3,334,246	\$18,505,746	21,839,992	1,494,194	\$20,345,798
1936	\$98,346,043	7,137,549	7,184,316 92,214 63,129 1,238,189 939,405 257,000	\$ 4,594,379	ACCOUNTS 1936 \$20,345,798 4.594.379	24,940,177	2,868,852	\$22,071,325
1937	\$99,059,920	5,492,282	63,537 1,254,980 700,000 151,000	\$ 3,401,725	SURPLUS 1937 122,071,325	25,473,050	87,278 2,266,494 7,607,733 23,455	\$15,488,090
1938	\$97,516,419	4,961,736	4,855,487 62,694 1,318,369 708,000	\$ 2,766,424	CONSOLIDATED 1938 \$15,488,090	18,254,514	348,630 1,962,434 13,862	\$15,929,588
FISCAL YEAR	(Which Ends January 31 of Subsequent Calendar Year) SALES LESS: Cost of Merchandise Sold and Operating Expenses	OTHER INCOME (Net)	PEDUCT: Flood Losses Interest Paid Less Interest Earned Allowance for Depreciation and Amortization Provision for Federal Income Taxes Provision for Surfax on Undistributed Net Income.	NET INCOME	EISCAL YEAR (Which Ends January 31 of Subsequent Calendar Year) SURPLUS—BEGINNING OF YEAR ADD: Net Income for Year as Above		Preferred Dividends Common Dividends Transfer to Capital Account Sundry Deductions (Net)	SURPLUS—END OF YEAR

W. T. GRANT COMPANY COMPARATIVE CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

1934	\$7,364,070 231,507 10,331,294	17,926,871 82,862 469,033 30,558 6,620,609 3,114,836 5,558,115	\$34,574,973	\$ 975,564 30,750 974,844 272,200 459,000	2,712,358 166,000 8,433 2,947,050 145,940	10,089,446	\$34,574,973
1935	\$ 8,805,872 110,739 10,979,229	19,895,840 84,437 299,588 19,997 6,178,725 2,947,172 5,428,266	\$35,698,996	\$ 932,198 25,000 1,240,495 197,200 605,000	2,999,893 37,500 7,983 2,077,850 140,526	10,089,446	\$35,698,996
1936	\$10,574,802	22,757,980 85,999 425,723 17,908 6,574,129 2,806,609 5,149,934	\$38,617,805	\$ 1,073,799 25,000 1,647,298 324,000 1,283,000	4,353,097 12,500 7,583 1,948,850 135,004	10,089,446	\$38,617,805
1937	\$10,998,361 35,415 170,244 10,990,658	22,194,678 1,058,092 510,612 137,516 6,728,426 5,179,068 5,179,068	\$39,699,656	\$ 1,495,874 12,500 714,218 475,500 916,303	3,614,395 4,615 1,540,150 181,171	6,977,695	\$39,699,656
1938	\$ 9,992,925 35,415 399,928 11,680,798	22,109,066 1,198,437 535,020 360,396 7,478,614 3,054,721 5,393,354	\$41,181,727	\$ 1,674,817 297,338 769,227 316,150 738,708	3,796,240 3,440 2,366,600 215,154	6,977,165 11,893,540 15,929,588	\$41,181,727
		Receivable.					
ear)							
AT END OF FISCAL YEAR	ASSETS Cash Marketable Securities Notes and Accounts Receivable Merchandise Inventories	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	Deferred Charges	LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL Accounts Payable Notes Payable Dividend Payable Accused Accounts Real Estate Mortgages Payable—Current Provision for Federal Taxes—Estimated	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES . Deferred Notes Payable Tenants Deposits	Capitel Stock: Preferred—5% Cumulative \$20 Par Value Common—\$10 Par Value Capital—No Par Value	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

GRANT STORES

ALABAMA (6)

Anniston Birmingham Decatur Gadsden Huntsville Mobile

ARKANSAS (2)

Little Rock Pine Bluff

CALIFORNIA (10)

Berkeley Fresno Huntington Park Los Angeles (2) Oakland Sacramento San Jose Santa Barbara Santa Monica

CONNECTICUT (26)

Bridgeport (2) Danbury Danielson Derby Greenwich Hartford Meriden Middletown Milford New Britain New Haven New London New Milford Putnam Rockville Southington South Manchester Stamford Thomaston Thompsonville Torrington Wallingford Waterbury Willimantic Winsted

DELAWARE (3)

Dover Milford Wilmington

FLORIDA (6)

Jacksonville Lakeland Miami Orlando Tampa (2)

GEORGIA (7)

Albany Atlanta Augusta Brunswick

GEORGIA (Cont.)

Macon Savannah Valdosta

ILLINOIS (17)

Alton
Aurora
Belleville
Chicago (4)
Decatur
East St. Louis
Elgin
Galesburg
Jacksonville
Joliet
Peoria
Quincy
Rockford
Springfield

INDIANA (9)

Evansville
Fort Wayne
Gary
Hammond
Indianapolis
Michigan City
New Albany
Newcastle
South Bend

IOWA (4)

Clinton Davenport Ottumwa Waterloo

KANSAS (4)

Hutchinson Pittsburg Topeka Wichita

KENTUCKY (2)

Louisville Paducah

LOUISIANA (5)

Alexandria Baton Rouge Monroe New Orleans Shreveport

MAINE (12)

Bangor Bath Brunswick Calais Fort Kent Gardiner Lewiston Old Town Portland Sanford Skowhegan

MAINE (Cont.)

Van Buren

MARYLAND (4)

Baltimore Cambridge Crisfield Hagerstown

MASSACHUSETTS (72)

Adams Arlington Athol Beverly Boston (12) Brockton Cambridge Chelsea Chicopee Clinton Danvers Easthampton Everett Fall River Fitchburg Framingham Franklin Gardner

Gloucester Great Barrington Haverhill

Holyoke
Hudson
Hyannis
Lawrence
Leominster
Lynn (2)
Malden
Marlboro
Medford
Melrose
Middleboro
Milford
Natick
Needham

New Bedford (2) Norfolk Downs North Adams North Attleboro

Norwood

Palmer Peabody Pittsfield Plymouth Reading Rockland Salem Somerville Stoneham Taunton Wakefield Waltham Ware

Webster

Weymouth

Winthrop

MASSACHUSETTS (Cont.)

Woburn Worcester

MICHIGAN (9)

Detroit (2)
Grand Rapids
Hamtramck
Kalamazoo
Lansing
Muskegon
Saginaw
St. Joseph

MINNESOTA (4)

Minneapolis Rochester St. Paul Winona

MISSISSIPPI (1)

Jackson

MISSOURI (4)

Kansas City St. Joseph St. Louis Springfield

NEBRASKA (2)

Lincoln Omaha

NEW HAMPSHIRE (9)

Berlin Concord Derry Dover Franklin Manchester Nashua Portsmouth Rochester

NEW JERSEY (26)

Bayonne Bloomfield Bridgeton Burlington Camden Collingswood Dover Hackensack Hoboken Jersey City (3) Millville Mount Holly Newark (3) Passaic Paterson Rahway Riverside Somerville Trenton Union City Vineland West New York

NEW YORK (85) Albany Batavia Bath

Bath
Bay Shore, L. I.
Beacon
Binghamton
Buffalo (7)
Canandaigua

Canandaigua Carthage Catskill Corning Cortland Dansville Elmira Freeport, L. I.

Geneva Glen Cove, L. I. Glens Falls Gouverneur Great Neck, L. I. Hempstead, L. I.

Herkimer Hudson Falls Huntington, L. I. Ilion

Ilion
Jamestown
Johnstown
Kenmore
Kingston
Lackawanna
Lockport
Lynbrook, L. I.
Mechanicville
Medina
Middletown

New York

Bronx (4)

Brooklyn (2)

Manhattan (5)

Queens (4)

New Rochelle

Niagara Falls

Norwich Olean Oneida Oneonta Oyster Bay, L. I. Patchogue, L. I. Penn Yan Port Chester Port Jervis Poughkeepsie Riverhead, L. I.

Riverhead, L. I. Rochester Rockville Center, L. I. Rome

Schenectady Seneca Falls Syracuse (2) Tonawanda Troy Utica Watertown

NEW YORK (Cont.)

Warsaw Westfield Wellsville White Plains Yonkers

NORTH CAROLINA (10)

Charlotte
Concord
Elizabeth City
Goldsboro
Greensboro
Greenville
Hickory
Kannapolis
Kinston
Raleigh

NORTH DAKOTA (I)

Fargo

OHIO (24) Akron

Barberton Bellaire Bellevue Cambridge Canton Circleville Columbus Conneaut Dayton Delphos East Liverpool Elyria Kent Lima Mansfield Marion New Philadelphia Newark Norwalk Portsmouth Steubenville

Youngstown OKLAHOMA (2)

Toledo

Muskogee Oklahoma City

PENNSYLVANIA (63)

Altoona Bangor Berwick Blairsville Bloomsburg Bristol Butler Carlisle Chambersburg Columbia

PENNSYLVANIA (Cont.)

Conshohocken Corry Elizabethtown Ellwood City Erie Freeland Greenville Hazleton Homestead Honesdale Huntingdon Jeannette Johnstown Lancaster Lock Haven McKeesport Mahanoy City Middletown Milton Mount Pleasant Mount Union New Kensington Oil City Palmerton Philadelphia (4) Philipsburg Phoenixville Pittston Pittsburgh (2)

Pottstown Pottsville Reading Sayre Scranton Shamokin Shippensburg Sunbury Tarentum Titusville Towanda Uniontown Upper Darby Waynesboro West Chester Wilkinsburg Williamsport

RHODE ISLAND (5)

Windber

York

Newport Pawtucket Providence West Warwick Woonsocket

SOUTH CAROLINA (4)

Charleston Columbia Florence Greenville

TENNESSEE (5)

Bristol Chattanooga Kingsport Memphis Nashville

TEXAS (13)

Abilene
Beaumont
Brownsville
Corpus Christi
Dallas
El Paso
Fort Worth
Galveston
Houston
Port Arthur
San Antonio
Waco
Wichita Falls

UTAH (2)

Ogden Salt Lake City

VERMONT (5)

Bennington Burlington Newport St. Johnsbury Springfield

VIRGINIA (13)

Charlottesville
Clifton Forge
Danville
Fredericksburg
Norfolk
Harrisonburg
Hopewell
Lynchburg
Newport News
Petersburg
Portsmouth
Richmond
Roanoke

WEST VIRGINIA (6)

Clarksburg Elkins Hinton Huntington Parkersburg Weston

WISCONSIN (7)

Fond du Lac Green Bay Janesville Madison Milwaukee Oshkosh Sheboygan



